

What is claimed is:

1. A medical device, comprising:  
an elongate core member;  
a polymer jacket disposed over at least a portion of the core member, the polymer jacket having a textured outer surface; and  
wherein the textured outer surface is defined by a helical groove formed in the outer surface of the polymer jacket.
2. The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a coating disposed over the polymer jacket.
3. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical groove has rounded edges.
4. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the polymer jacket is free of a coil.
5. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical groove is positioned proximally of a distal tip of the medical device.
6. An intravascular guidewire, comprising:  
an elongate core member having a proximal end region and a distal end region;

a polymer jacket disposed over the distal end region of the core member, the polymer jacket having a textured outer surface; and

wherein the textured outer surface is defined by a helical channel formed in the outer surface of the polymer jacket.

7. The guidewire of claim 6, further comprising a coating disposed over the polymer jacket.

8. The guidewire of claim 6, wherein the helical channel has rounded edges.

9. The guidewire of claim 6, wherein the polymer jacket is free of a coil.

10. The guidewire of claim 6, wherein the textured outer surface of the polymer jacket is positioned proximally a distance from a distal end of the polymer jacket.

11. The guidewire of claim 10, wherein the textured outer surfaced is positioned about 2 to about 20 centimeters from the distal end of the polymer jacket.

12. A method for manufacturing a medical device, comprising the steps of:  
providing a core member having a proximal region and a distal region;  
disposing a polymer jacket over the distal region of the core member, the polymer jacket having an outer surface;

winding a coil over the polymer jacket;

heating the polymer jacket so that the coil alters the outer surface of the polymer jacket; and

removing the coil from the polymer jacket.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of winding a coil over the polymer jacket includes winding the coil under tension over the polymer jacket.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket precedes the step of winding a coil over the polymer jacket.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket follows the step of winding a coil over the polymer jacket.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket follows the step of removing the coil from the polymer jacket.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket includes disposing the coating over the altered surface of the polymer jacket.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the polymer jacket follows the altered surface of the polymer jacket.

20. A method for manufacturing a medical device, comprising the steps of:  
providing a core member;  
disposing a polymer jacket over the core member, the polymer jacket having an outer surface;  
winding a coil over the polymer jacket, wherein the coil is wound under tension;  
heating the polymer jacket so that the coil tension is relieved and the coil embeds within the outer surface of the polymer jacket; and  
removing the coil from the jacket, thereby leaving a helically-contoured groove corresponding to where the coil was embedded in the polymer jacket.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket precedes the step of winding a coil over the polymer jacket.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket follows the step of winding a coil over the polymer jacket.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket follows the step of removing the coil from the polymer jacket.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of disposing a coating over the polymer jacket includes disposing the coating over the altered surface of the polymer jacket.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the polymer jacket follows the altered surface of the polymer jacket.

27. The method of claim 20, further comprising a second heating step.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the second heating step occurs after the step of removing the coil from the polymer jacket.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the second heating step smoothes the helically-contoured groove.

30. A method for manufacturing a medical device, comprising the steps of:  
providing a core member;  
disposing a polymer jacket over the core member, the polymer jacket having an outer surface;  
winding a coil over the polymer jacket, wherein the coil is wound under tension;

embedding the coil within the outer surface of the polymer jacket; and  
removing the coil from the jacket, thereby leaving a helically-contoured groove in the polymer jacket at a position corresponding to where the coil was embedded in the polymer jacket.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of heating the helically-contoured groove.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the step of embedding the coil within the outer surface of the polymer jacket includes heating.